

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 9, 2008. Claims 1, 12 and 13, each of which are independent, remain pending in the application, with Claims 2 to 11 having been canceled. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0164003, now U.S. Patent No. 6,700,956 (Chang), and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chang in view of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0153108 (Nakajima). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a communication apparatus that selects one of two different communication means based on a user indication. More particularly, the apparatus has a master phone, slave phone and a facsimile, along with a first communication means for telephone communication via a public network, and a second communication means for telephone communication via an IP network. The network used depends on a user's indication. Thus, if the user indicates to use the master phone or facsimile, a selection is made to use the first communication means via the public network so as to maintain a stable communication. On the other hand, if the user indicates to use the slave phone or the second communication means, communication via the IP network is selected.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus comprising a master phone, a slave phone, a facsimile, a first communication means for telephone communication via a public network

using a specified communication cable, and a second communication means for telephone communication via an IP network using the communication cable, the apparatus further comprising a selection means for selecting one of the first and second communication means based on a user indication, and a control means for, during communication using one of the communication means selected by the selection means, controlling communication using the other communication means based on a user instruction, wherein the selection means selects the first communication means in a case where the user indication indicates to use the master phone, the selection means selects the second communication means in a case where the user indication indicates to use the slave phone, the selection means selects the first communication means in a case where the user indication indicates to use the facsimile, and the selection means selects the second communication means in a case where the user indication indicates to use the second communication means.

Claims 12 and 13 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 12 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest a communication apparatus i) selecting a first communication means (which utilizes a public telephone network) in a case where a user indicates to use a master phone, ii) selecting a second communication means (which utilizes an IP network) in a case where the user indicates to use a slave phone, iii) selecting the first communication means in a case where the user indicates to use a facsimile, and iv) selecting the second

communication means in a case where the user indicates to use the second communication means.

Chang is seen to disclose selectively providing telephone service that is either PSTN-based or Internet based. In Chang, an apparatus 10 is used to toggle between an analog telephone mode using a PSTN-network and an Internet-based telephone mode. That is, in Chang, the user can choose to make a telephone call via a public network, or can choose to make a call using the Internet, whereby an analog voice is digitized by a PC, sent to an IP service provider to the recipient, and when a digitized voice is received, it is converted to analog and provided to the telephone. Thus, Chang merely provides a way to switch between analog and digital phone use for one phone. However, Chang is not seen to teach the claimed selections of the invention, and in particular, is not seen to teach a communication apparatus i) selecting a first communication means (which utilizes a public telephone network) in a case where a user indicates to use a master phone, ii) selecting a second communication means (which utilizes an IP network) in a case where the user indicates to use a slave phone, iii) selecting the first communication means in a case where the user indicates to use a facsimile, and iv) selecting the second communication means in a case where the user indicates to use the second communication means.

Nakajima is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Chang, would have resulted in the invention. In this regard, Nakajima is merely seen to disclose the implementation of facsimile communications in VoIP networks. Thus, Nakajima, in terms of the present invention, would utilize the second communication means via the IP network to transmit the facsimile, whereas the claimed invention selects the first communication means via the public network when the user indicates to use the facsimile.

Therefore, Nakajima is not seen to make up for the deficiencies of Chang, and the proposed combination would not have resulted in the presently-claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1, 12 and 13 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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